

MYTHIMNA LOREYI DUPONCHEL :
THE COSMOPOLITAN (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE)
IN DERBYSHIRE AND A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF
ITS BREEDING IN CAPTIVITY

By JOHN CULPIN*

A single female specimen of this relatively rare migrant was taken by me in my garden m.v. trap at Glapwell, North-east Derbyshire, on the night of 9th/10th September 1983. Of the twenty other species of moth in the trap that night, the only one of note was a single *Plusia festucae* L.

Next day I enlisted the help of Mr. Brian Elliott, and we fed the moth on honey and water and transferred her to a small plastic box covered with netting and containing dry cocksfoot heads. On the 14th September, some shiny secretion sealing the cut end of a cocksfoot head was accidentally noticed, and on splitting the end of this stem, a long row of eggs was revealed, reaching 12 mm. down into the hollow stem. After this discovery, more small, dry, hollow grass stems were introduced and these were again utilised by the moth as laying sites. The egg is pale green, and owing presumably to the pressure exerted within the hollow stem during oviposition, a number of these were flattened and misshapen as was noted in Bretherton et al. (1979). The eggs were kept at 70°F and the first larvae appeared on 20th September.

The dull, light brown larvae fed on a variety of grasses, and accepted all species offered. They were voracious feeders and extremely photophobic, and by the 5th October were already half grown. Full growth and preparation for pupation began on 16th October. The larva has been well described (Haggett, 1980).

The first moth emerged on 4th November 1983, and in all some 200 insects were bred. A single pairing was obtained by Mr. Brian Statham, but the resulting eggs were infertile.

Final instar larvae were photographed by the author and Mr. Jim Porter. The original female — somewhat worse for wear — was exhibited at the Annual Exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society in October 1983, and a bred series at the Annual Exhibition of the Derbyshire Entomological Society in November that year. After having first had the apex of the left forewing clipped, surplus adults were released.

My thanks are due to Messrs. B. Statham, J. Porter and B. Elliott for their help, and especially to the latter for his assistance in the preparation of this account.

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References

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CHOROSOMA SCHILLINGI (SCHUMMEL) (HEM.: RHOPALIDAE)
IN WEST CUMBRIA. — I took one specimen of this unusual looking bug by sweeping along the edge of a large stand of Rosebay Willowherb in a dune slack on the Eskmeals Dunes Nature Reserve, (SD08.94), Cumbria, on 4th August, 1984. Despite further sweeping and searching in the immediate area this was the only specimen found.

According to Southwood & Leston (1959, *Land and water bugs of the British Isles*, London) *C. schillingi* is restricted mainly to coastal sand-dunes, and has been recorded from Norfolk, Pembroke and Anglesey, but apart from this it seems to be almost unknown from the north of Britain.

This would appear to be the first record of the bug from West Cumbria and it establishes a new record of vice county 70, Cumberland. There is no local material of *C. schillingi* among the five specimens in the F. H. Day collection of Heteroptera held in the Tullie House Museum in Carlisle, and the individuals are from Anglesey and Great Yarmouth, but two are from Deal, and were collected by E. C. Bedwell and bear the date 22.ix.23.

In an interesting note Mr. Peter Kirby, (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **120** : 177) records the species from two inland sites in England, Canterbury, Kent and Rauceby Warren in Lincolnshire; and this latter record extends the northern range of the species on the eastern side of Britain.

Among some other interesting and local species of Heteroptera which I collected on the reserve during the summer of 1984 were, *Nedes tipularius* (L.), *Gampsocoris punctipes* and *Agramma laeta*, all by sweeping in the dune slacks, and *Heterotoma merioptera* occurred in small numbers on Bittersweet growing near to some Sea Buckthorn bushes.

I acknowledge the kind permission of the Cumbria Trust for Nature Conservation for allowing me to collect on the Eskmeals Reserve, and I also wish to thank Mr. David Clarke, curator of the Tullie House Museum for kindly allowing me to examine the F. H. Day collection. — R. W. J. READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 8RF.